

Appendix 3: State Wildlife Grants and Natural Legacy Project implementation.

Since the inception of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project, numerous projects totaling millions of dollars have contributed towards achieving its mission. Funding has come from many sources including the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program, the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, NRCS Special EQIP, and many landowners.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission developed a granting program to make a portion of its annual SWG allotment available to organizations and individuals wanting to help implement the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. Proponents of projects that benefit at-risk species and their habitats submitted applications for SWG funding following a request for proposals. Proposals were evaluated using criteria that assess ability to meet the goals of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. Funds were awarded on a competitive basis. Past projects have been awarded to a variety of sponsors, including private landowners, non-profit organizations, university researchers, and more. SWG-funded projects have benefited migratory and resident birds, northern river otter, plains topminnow, prairie ecosystems, and riparian habitats to name a few.

The Game and Parks Commission has also developed the Natural Legacy Implementation Database to track Natural Legacy projects. Data include general project information, objectives, species of concern, natural communities affected, BUL(s) positively impacted, site information, funding and partners, and conservation activities. Summaries of this information are available from the Natural Heritage Program Manager at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The summary information below is from the database. It should be noted that to date, the database primarily contains information on projects funded by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, Natural Resource Conservation Service Special EQIP, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and landowners. Legacy projects funded by other sources are not included in this summary.

From 2005 – 2011, 939 projects have impacted approximately 500,000 acres under the umbrella of the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project. Projects have occurred on the properties of more than 500 private landowners as well as land managed by state and federal agencies and non-profit conservation organizations. Thirty Biologically Unique Landscapes and many of their associated at-risk species and natural communities have benefited from such projects.

Nebraska Natural Legacy Projects (2005 - 2011)	Number
Habitat Restoration/Habitat Management	939
Research/Inventory/Monitoring	46

Amount of financial contribution (cash or in-kind) by each of the following:

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	\$ 224,477
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*	\$9,710,383
Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$3,523,740
Nebraska Environmental Trust	\$1,319,014
Non-Government Organizations	> \$1,896,778
Private Landowners	> \$2,000,000

*This includes funds from the following USFWS programs: State Wildlife Grants, Landowner Incentive Program, Section 6, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife

For a list of projects supported with competitive SWG funds, please visit NebraskaNaturalLegacy.org.

State Wildlife Grant Recipients

Audubon Nebraska
 Crane Trust, Inc.
 Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
 Gracie Creek Landowners
 Iowa State University
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education
 Nebraska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
 Nebraska Land Trust
 Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center
 Nebraska Ornithologists' Union
 Oklahoma State University
 Pheasants Forever
 Platte River Basins Environments, Inc.
 Platte Valley Weed Management Area
 Prairie Plains Resource Institute
 Quail Forever
 Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
 Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
 Sandhills Task Force
 Southern Illinois University
 Tern and Plover Conservation Partnership
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of Central Arkansas
 University of Nebraska - Kearney
 University of Nebraska - Lincoln
 University of Nebraska - Omaha
 University of Nebraska – Panhandle Research and Extension Center
 Wachiska Audubon Chapter
 Wayne State College